

*Oxycera trilineata* (L.) (Diptera)

## New to Cumbria

By C. F. COWAN\*

Mr. A. Brindle's survey (Vol. 88:256-259) of the Stratiomyid flies of north England spurs me to report this belated record.

On 30.vii.1961, a brilliantly hot day, I explored the sand dunes and slacks of Sandscale Haws (10 km. square 34/17, tetrad NE; v.-c. 69), about 5 km. north of Barrow in Furness. This is a fine area of dune slacks in the Duddon Estuary, with some very interesting flora which I set out to photograph. There being no shade, I left unwanted equipment on a dry spot covered by my pac-a-mac, and took my camera with a wide-angle lens. An hour later I returned and saw this superb green fly basking on my mackintosh and serenely preening her pink legs. I secured successively closer photographs to within about 5 cm., this last giving an image about life-size on the colour transparency.

Identification from the fine figure of a male in colour by Colyer & Hammond (1951:94, pl. 14) was easy. My female had the eyes well separated as normal, with the vertex and frons green and three frontal black lines running down from a black collar; antennae deep rusty red.

The BMNH quite reasonably declined to confirm identity from a colour print without a corpse to compare with their series of browned specimens, and I required someone who knew the living animal to see it before reporting. Mr. Brindle has now seen the photograph and positively confirms that the fly is *Oxycera trilineata*.

Colyer & Hammond give the distribution as "the southern half of the country", but Oldroyd (1969:25, 26) gives "marshes; frequent and widespread" throughout the British Isles. An old note of my own, made I think in 1962 when seeing the BMNH series, makes this an estuarine insect of S.E. and S. England, and S. Wales. The favoured Duddon Estuary, washed by a tentacle of the Gulf Stream, is a compatible locality. Oldroyd notes "found on vegetation"; Brindle adds *in litt.* "prefers a pac-a-mac", a useful tip for collectors perhaps, but anathema to photographers!

Both Colyer & Hammond and Oldroyd attributed the name to Fabricius, but Fabricius himself invariably (e.g. 1775:760, no. 7) cited Linnaeus, who proposed it in *Musca*, and the correct name is *Oxycera trilineata* (L., 1767).

## References

- Colyer, C. N. and Hammond, C. O. 1951. *Flies of the British Isles* (Warne).  
 Fabricius, J. C. 1775. *Systema Entomologiae*. Flensb. & Lips.  
 Linnaeus, C. 1767. *Systema Naturae* (edn. 12). Holmiae (2:980, no. 6).  
 Oldroyd, H. 1969. *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects*, 9 (4).

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